

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the following paragraphs with the corresponding rewritten paragraphs:

[0003] Meanwhile, the thin-walled bottle containers are sometimes used as they stand, and are thus provided with an annular heel portion near a bottom surface of the container's body portion so as to cause the container itself to self-support on a supporting surface such as shelf or table. Further, the heel portion comprises a sidewall having a curved surface bulged toward the outside of the container relative to said sidewall, a flat and annular bottom face region continuous to the sidewall, and a bottom-up region continuous to the bottom face region and inwardly recessed toward the vicinity of a bottle's center axis.

[0008] It is preferred that the heel portion further comprises a bottom face region formed of a curved surface continuous to the sidewall and bulged toward the outside of the bottle container relative to said sidewall, a bottom-up region inwardly recessed toward the vicinity of the bottle center axis, and a rising region for smoothly connecting the bottom face region and the bottom-up region to each other. In this instance, the bottom face region and the rising region are bulged toward the underside of the bottle container when it is filled with the contents due to the thin-walled nature of the bottle container. However, when such a container is placed on a supporting surface, these bulged portions are brought to form a flat surface to be closely contacted with the supporting surface. It is thus possible to further improve the stability of the bottle container when the same is self-supported.

[0020] FIG. 2 is an enlarged view showing the bottom part 13 of the bottle container 10 in enlarged scale. As shown in FIG. 2, the heel portion H10 comprises, in an annular manner around the bottle axis A, a sidewall 14 formed of a curved surface recessed toward the inside of the bottle container 10, a bottom face region 15 formed of a curved surface continuous to the sidewall 14 and bulged toward the outside of the bottle container 10 relative to said sidewall 14, a bottom-up region 16 represented by a broken line and inwardly recessed

toward the vicinity of the center axis A, and a rising region 17 for continuously connecting the bottom face region 15 and the bottom-up region 16 to each other.

[0024] According to the present embodiment, in particular, the heel portion H10 comprises the bottom face region 15 formed of the curved surface continuous to the sidewall 14 and bulged toward the outside of the bottle container 10 relative to said sidewall 14, the bottom-up region 16 inwardly recessed toward the vicinity of the bottle center axis A, and the rising region 17 for continuously connecting the bottom face region 15 and bottom-up region 16 to each other. The bottom face region 15 and rising region 17 are bulged toward the underside of the container 10 when it is filled with the contents, due to the thin-walled nature of the container 10. However, when the container is placed on the supporting surface such as shelf or table, these bulged portions are brought to form a flat surface to be closely contacted with the supporting surface, thereby further improving the stability of the container 10 when the same is self-supported.

[0026] The bottom part 23 of the thin-walled bottle container 20 according to the second embodiment includes, as shown in FIG. 3, a heel portion H20 connected to a body portion 22 and comprises, in an annular manner around the center axis A, a sidewall 24 formed of a curved surface having a radius of curvature R21 so as to be recessed toward the inside of the container 20, a bottom face region 25 formed of a curved surface having a radius of curvature R22 so as to be continuous to the sidewall 24 and bulged toward the outside of the container 20 relative to said sidewall 24, a bottom-up region 26 represented by a broken line and formed to have a radius of curvature R23 so as to be inwardly recessed toward the vicinity of the center axis A of the container, and a substantially planar rising region 27 having a radius of curvature R24 for continuously connecting the bottom face region 25 and bottom-up region 26 to each other. This embodiment is basically the same as the first

embodiment, but is different therefrom in that the sidewall 24 is formed with an annular groove 24a around the bottle axis A.

[0027] Similarly, the bottom part 33 of the thin-walled bottle container 30 according to the third embodiment shown in FIG. 4 includes a heel portion H30 connected to a body portion 32 and comprises, in an annular manner around the center axis A, a sidewall 34 formed of a curved surface constituted to have a radius of curvature R31 so as to be recessed toward the inside of the container 30, a bottom face region 35 formed of a curved surface having a radius of curvature R32 so as to be continuous to this sidewall 34 and bulged toward the outside of the container 30 relative to said sidewall 34, a bottom-up region 36 represented by a broken line and constituted to have a radius of curvature R33 so as to be inwardly recessed toward the vicinity of the center axis A, and a substantially planar rising region 37 having a radius of curvature R34 for continuously connecting the bottom face region 35 and bottom-up region 36 to each other. This embodiment, too, is basically the same as the first embodiment, but is different therefrom in that the sidewall 34 is formed with an annular groove 34a around the bottle axis A, and the radius of curvature R31 defining the sidewall 34 provided at the heel portion H30 is set to be smaller than the radius of curvature R11 of the sidewall 14 in the first embodiment, thereby providing a curved surface exhibiting a stronger recession.